



## Request for City Council Committee Action

**Date:** February 4, 2003  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair, Transportation and Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **The Division intends to re-focus the emphasis of Neighborhood Clean Sweeps, ending garbage collection on Saturday overtime and emphasizing neighborhood kickoffs of year-long anti-litter and Clean City projects**

**Previous Directives:**

- Any previous directives occurred in the far past, and have no documentation
- There are "unstated" directives to empower neighborhoods to improve neighborhood livability

**Recommendation:** The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling shall refocus Neighborhood Clean Sweeps to support and encourage citizen and Neighborhood participation in anti-litter, beautification and other programs that enhance neighborhood livability.

Prepared or Submitted by: Susan Young, Director Division of Solid Waste and Recycling  
Phone: 673-2443

Approved by: Brian Lokkesmoe, Acting Director of Public Works, City Engineer

Presenter in Committee: Susan Young

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

☒ No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Financial effects are contained within Enterprise Fund.

☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

☐ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

☐ Action requires use of contingency or reserves

☐ Other financial impact (Explain):

☐ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

## Background/Supporting Information

The Division of Solid Waste & Recycling is preparing for the spring 2003 Clean City/Clean Minneapolis initiative with a re-focused approach to anti-litter and clean neighborhood activities. Rather than promote a once-a-year CleanSweep event, the Division will emphasize activities that involve the residents and businesses in on-going litter cleanups, beautification programs, graffiti removal and prevention, and other, neighborhood-specific activities that enhance neighborhood livability.

Historically, the City allowed Neighborhoods to organize a “one-shot” event on a Saturday that essentially duplicated the week-to-week services that the City provides. Trash collected by City forces, on overtime, was the same as the City routinely collects: sofas, appliances, bags of garbage, etc. Vouchers were provided to the neighborhoods so that they could organize private vehicles to collect tires, concrete, brush, etc. and transport them to the South Transfer Station or SKB on the event day. The neighborhood was responsible for providing all event promotion, organization of volunteers to load garbage into trucks, coordination of routes and items, and transportation of voucher materials (tires, concrete, etc.) to the South Transfer Station. Neighborhoods have had increasing trouble organizing these one-time events, especially since they duplicate existing City services. In 1997, 43 neighborhoods participated in the program, in 2002 only 25 neighborhoods had traditional Clean Sweeps.

The chief benefit of the CleanSweeps was the synergy that neighborhoods saw when a group of neighbors cooperated on a project that created a visible, albeit temporary, improvement in their area. Over the years, more and more neighborhoods have de-emphasized the “garbage collection” components of their CleanSweeps, and have used the CleanSweep to kick off litter collection, graffiti removal and other beautification efforts for the season. This concept, of replacing a one time garbage collection effort with a seasonal re-dedication of neighborly commitment to neighborhood livability, is seen by staff as a natural evolution that will also result in better use of City resources, and renewed commitment to neighborhoods by the residents. The City has an excellent opportunity to partner with neighborhoods to customize programs that will reflect the needs of the individual neighborhoods. This type of neighborhood-driven effort has been very successful, from the Central Neighborhood Accelerated Cleanup program, to the semi-annual Marcy Holmes/Como/Prospect Park response to student move-outs, to the Hawthorne Clean and Green programs.

Components of the program will include promotion of the Adopt-A-Block program, provision of graffiti removal wipes and paint for paint-overs on traffic standards and controllers, yellow bags for litter pickup, stencils for storm drains, limited provision of large composters for community gardens and support of other neighborhood ideas to enhance livability. Because resources will not be used on the Saturday duplication of garbage collection, more resources can be diverted to programs such as the Central Neighborhood clean ups, and in anti-litter education efforts. Emphasis will be placed on helping neighborhoods develop self-sustaining programs that will maximize livability and neighborhood image, while maintaining optimum use of basic City services. The new program will be introduced to each neighborhood by mailing them a packet by early March, posting the information on the City's web site, and meeting with individual neighborhood organizations to discuss opportunities for their area.